

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1           1.     (Currently Amended) A follower apparatus for use in guiding material  
2 between the follower and a spool, the follower comprising:

3               (a)     a follower module including

4                   i)     a base;

5                   ii)    a roller rotatably attached to said base for guiding said material;

6                   iii)   detection apparatus for detecting when said material is not in a  
7                            selected zone of said roller and for outputting a corresponding  
8                            indicative signal, wherein said detection apparatus includes a  
9                            light emitter and detector apparatus including at least one first  
10                           emitter and first detector for detecting said material in a first  
11                           side zone on one side of said selected zone and at least one  
12                           second emitter and second detector for detecting said material  
13                           in a second side zone on an opposite side of said selected zone,  
14                           wherein said first and second emitter and first and second  
15                           detector are positioned at an oblique angle to a plane defined by  
16                           a direction of travel of material between said roller and said  
17                           pulley and a line passing through said material and lying  
18                           parallel to an axis of rotation of said roller; and;

19                   iv)    a pulley for receiving and redirecting said material from said  
20                           roller, wherein the axis of rotation of said pulley is oriented parallel to  
21                           an axis of rotation of said roller;

22               (b)     motorized apparatus for moving said follower module; and

23               (c)     control apparatus responsive to said signal for directing said motorized  
24                           apparatus to move said module into said selected zone.

2-6.   (Canceled)

1           7.     (Currently Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim [[6]] 1 wherein each  
2 said detector is positioned to detect light reflected from said material.

1           8.       (Currently Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim [[6]] 1 wherein each  
2 said detector is positioned to detect a reduction in light from a corresponding said emitter  
3 caused by said material entering a space between said emitter and said detector.

9-11. (Canceled)

1           12.       (Currently Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim [[11]] 1 wherein said  
2 first and second emitter are positioned so as to direct a light beam ~~at right angles~~  
3 perpendicular to a direction of travel of said material.

1           13.       (Currently Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim [[3]] 1 wherein walls of  
2 said pulley are tapered so as to avoid interference with said material.

14-15. (Canceled)

1           16.       (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein said follower module  
2 includes first and second physical stops positioned approximate first and second ends of said  
3 roller so as to prevent said material from moving past said ends of said roller.

17-24. (Canceled)